



GARDNER-WEBB  
UNIVERSITY

## Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies Strategic Plan 2020-2025

### I. ENROLLMENT, RETENTION, AND STUDENT SUCCESS

**Commitment 1.** We will make our University a destination of first choice for an increasing number of students from around the state, from across the region, and beyond.

**Objective 1.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will support the launching of one or more high-growth graduate degree programs in STEM, healthcare, and/or business.

**Metric 1.1.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will document the approval and launch process of one or more programs.

**Objective 2.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will strengthen student online learning experiences.

**Metric 2.1.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will analyze graduate SOI and exit survey data to identify specific strengths and needs for improvement related to online learning.

**Metric 2.2.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will document professional learning provided to graduate faculty focused on improvement of online learning.

**Metric 2.3.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will document development of online graduate courses supported by online course design awards.

**Metric 2.4.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will establish and present a graduate online teaching award.

### II. STRENGTHENING GWU'S FINANCIAL BASE

**Commitment 2.** We will increase and diversify the sources of revenue needed to sustain the growth and strengthening of our vibrant, comprehensive University.

**Objective 3.** The GWU IRB will partner with university advancement leadership to pursue and obtain federal-wide assurance (FWA) through the Office for Human Research Protections in order to meet eligibility requirements for federal grants provided through the US Department of Health and Human Services.

**Metric 3.1.** The GWU IRB will document collaborative efforts with GWU staff hired to facilitate pre-award proposal writing and post-award grant management to pursue FWA of compliance with requirements in the Health and Human Services Protection of Human Subjects regulations at 45 CFR part 46.

**Objective 4.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will partner with staff hired as described in the university strategic plan to support the pre-award proposal writing and post-award grant management process.

**Metric 4.1.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will track participation by graduate faculty in university-sponsored grant writing training efforts.

**Metric 4.2.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will track grant-writing submission and award levels among graduate faculty.

### **III. BECOME AND INDISPENSABLE PARTNER TO THE TOWN, COUNTY, AND REGION**

**Commitment 3.** Gardner-Webb University is a private university with a very public mission. We will increase our positive impact in the broader community and in the region by partnering with those who share our interest in improving the quality of life in Cleveland County and beyond.

**Objective 5.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will facilitate collaboration across graduate programs to develop and participate in various strategic partnerships to positively impact our local community and the communities where our graduate students live and work.

**Metric 5.1.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will document establishment of and participation in collaborative efforts across graduate programs and with community partners that increase the university's economic impact on the region; that improve the physical and mental health of the region; or that bring together members of the broader community for public dialogue and/or events.

#### **IV. RESPECT OUR HERITAGE, EXTEND OUR BRAND, AND SHARPEN OUR IDENTITY**

**Commitment 4.** We will achieve and sustain a reputation as North Carolina's leader in Christian higher education.

**Objective 6.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will collaborate with campus stakeholders to explore and develop avenues for integrating Gardner-Webb produced Christian content into graduate and DCP Blackboard courses.

**Metric 6.1.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will track program success through analysis of student access of provided content.

**Metric 6.2.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will monitor impact on core values as measured by student exit survey data.

**Metric 6.3.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will coordinate with university publications to spotlight implementation efforts.

**Objective 7.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will collaborate with graduate program leaders and faculty to increase the intentionality with which we use—and live by—our institutional motto (*Pro Deo et Humanitate*) in the design and implementation of graduate instruction.

**Metric 7.1.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will document the development and implementation of professional learning to assist faculty in including Christian values in both online and face-to-face graduate student experiences.

**Metric 7.2.** The GBP School of Graduate Studies will improve student perceptions related to Gardner-Webb's impact on core values as measured by exit survey data.